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International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

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**Human Rights Committee**
**111th session**

**Summary record (partial)* of the 3067th meeting**
Held at the Palais Wilson, Geneva, on Monday, 7 July 2014, at 10 a.m.

*Chairperson*: Sir Nigel Rodley

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* No summary record was prepared for the rest of the meeting.

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*The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.*

**Opening of the session by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights or her representative**

1. **Mr. Walker** (Human Rights Treaties Division, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights) declared open the one hundred and eleventh session of the Human Rights Committee. He extended his congratulations to the members who had been re-elected for another four-year term during the recent meeting of States parties – Mr. Ben Achour, Mr. Iwasawa and Ms. Waterval, and best wishes to the outgoing members of the Committee – Ms. Chanet, Mr. Flinterman, Mr. Kälin, Ms. Majodina, Mr. Neuman and Mr. Zlatescu. He also expressed a warm welcome to Mr. Seetulsingh, who had been elected to fill the vacancy that had arisen from the resignation of Mr. Matadeen.

2. Reporting on the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) since the Committee's previous session, he said that the ongoing controversy relating to the scope of the right to privacy in the context of surveillance and the digital age highlighted the necessity for legal clarity on those issues. A General Assembly resolution adopted in December 2013 had expressed deep concern at the negative impact that surveillance and interception of communications might have on human rights and had requested a report from OHCHR on the issue. The report would be published that month, prior to its presentation to the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly. It was hoped that the report would assist in identifying possible courses of action to ensure that the rights held by people offline were also protected online.

3. The Petitions and Inquiries Section had begun producing a quarterly treaty body case law note, summarizing recent highlights of the jurisprudence of the treaty bodies on individual cases. The notes were distributed throughout OHCHR in order to increase awareness of the treaty bodies' case law and allow colleagues in different divisions and in the field to incorporate examples of such case law in their research, reports and advocacy work.

4. OHCHR was also continuing its work to celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty. The Deputy High Commissioner had welcomed the recent ratifications of the Optional Protocol by El Salvador, Gabon and Poland and had called on other States that had not yet done so to follow suit. Other United Nations entities were also playing their part on the road to abolition. Given that 32 States continued to apply the death penalty for drug-related offences, the International Narcotics Control Board had addressed a note verbale to all Member States in March 2014, encouraging States that still imposed the death penalty for such offences to abolish that punishment.

5. Some States had also recently taken positive steps towards possible ratification. The Government of Equatorial Guinea had established a moratorium on the application of the death penalty; the Government of Pakistan had decided to continue its moratorium on the use of capital punishment; the President of the United Arab Emirates had ordered a general stay on executions; and the Governor of the State of Washington in the United States of America had announced the introduction of a moratorium on the death penalty.

6. However, a worrying number of States continued to apply the death penalty to children. Between June 2013 and June 2014, a number of those 14 States had executed child offenders. OHCHR encouraged the Committee to continue to take whatever action it deemed appropriate to encourage ratifications.

7. Under General Assembly resolution 68/268 on strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system, the Committee had been granted extra weeks of plenary time for the following year, which would be used to reduce

the backlog, particularly of communications. The discussions on implementation of the resolution had already begun at the recent meeting of treaty body chairpersons. The chairpersons had welcomed the resolution, which opened a new era in the history of the treaty bodies, and expressed their commitment to further develop their work as a system. Although progress had been achieved, much follow-up was now required by each of the treaty bodies with a reporting procedure. In particular, as endorsed by the chairpersons, the committees should consider making the simplified reporting procedure available after 1 January 2015 and consider alignment of the constructive dialogue and concluding observations. In conclusion, he wished the Committee a successful and productive session.

8. **Mr. Iwasawa** said that the Committee had adopted the system of lists of issues prior to reporting in 2010. The Committee's consideration of its first State party report under the procedure in October 2013 had been very effective and efficient. He expressed the hope that, as recommended by the chairpersons, the other treaty bodies would also adopt the procedure.

9. **Mr. Salvioli** said he hoped that the efforts of OHCHR and the committees themselves in that area would continue and that the additional resources would be effectively allocated to the treaty bodies.

**Solemn declaration by the newly elected member of the Committee in accordance with article 38 of the Covenant**

10. **The Chairperson** invited the new member of the Committee, Mr. Seetulsingh, to make the solemn declaration required under rule 16 of the rules of procedure.

11. **Mr. Seetulsingh** made the following declaration: "I solemnly undertake to discharge my duties as a member of the Human Rights Committee impartially and conscientiously".

**Adoption of the agenda** (CCPR/C/111/1)

12. *The agenda was adopted.*

**Organizational and other matters, including the adoption of the report of the pre-sessional working group on individual communications**

13. **Ms. Seibert-Fohr** (Chairperson-Rapporteur of the working group on individual communications) said that the members of the working group were Mr. Bouzid, Ms. Chanet, Mr. Neuman, Mr. Rodríguez-Rescia, Mr. Salvioli, Mr. Shany, Mr. Vardzelashvili, Ms. Waterval and herself. The working group, which had met from 30 June to 4 July, had considered 33 cases. In its report it recommended to the plenary that it should adopt one decision of inadmissibility, consider 29 communications on their merits and decide between two proposed options for the three remaining cases. In view of the high number of cases to be considered at the current and following sessions, the working group had considered a number of possible approaches, which should be discussed by the plenary under methods of work.

14. *The report of the working group on Individual Communications was adopted.*

*The discussion covered in the summary record ended at 10.25 a.m.*